Technique developed to fight HIV virus

4162. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the researchers at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston has developed a new technique to fight virus HIV as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 26th February, 1993;

(b) if so, whether Government have since contemplated any steps to get the know-how of the new technique in view of large number of HIV cases in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A group of scientists at the General Hospital Boston have developed an approach known as convergent combination therapy which aims at attacking the virus enzyme called reverse transcriptase. This enzyme is essential or its replication. This line of treatment is still in an experimental stage.

Dengue Epidemic

4163. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention nas been drawn to a press news-item captioned Dengue epidemic threatens 85 nations as reported in the Indian Express dated 23-2-93;

(b) if so, whether there is any threat from Dengue epidemic in India;

(c) whether Government propose to take any precautionary measures to control this disease; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Although small outbreaks of this disease have been reported from isolated areas, there is no indication of an imminent threat to life or health posed by a Dengue Epidemic.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Burns wards in hospitals in Delhi

4164. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Burns Ward—a much neglected Department" as reported in the Indian Express dated 7th March, 1993;

(b) if so, whether the burns departments of the various Hospitals in the capital are ill-equipped;

(c) if so, the number of burns cases reported in the Hospitals in the capital during the last one year;

(d) the number out of them saved by the Hospital authorities; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to make well-equipped the burns wards in the various hospitals?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) The burns departments of the major Government hospitals are adequately equipped. The number of patients admitted and saved in Government hospitals during the last one year are as under:—